Application No.: 09/690,721   Attorney Docket No: 1999-0679
Group Art Unit: 2654

In the Specification:

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on line 4, page 5 of the specification as follows:

In an embodiment for recognizing non-acoustic morphemes, the ASR phone recognizer 210 would be replaced in the figure by a sub-morpheme recognizer. The sub-morpheme recognizer would operate similar to the ASR phone recognizer, but it would receive raw non-acoustic or a mixture of acoustic and non-acoustic training data from a database. Again, for ~~each~~ ease of discussion, only acoustic morphemes will be discussed.

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on line 21, page 7 of the specification as follows:

Fig. 4 illustrates a more detailed flowchart of the candidate phone-phrase selection process that takes place in step 3200. In step 3210, the raw training speech corpus is filtered using grammatical inference algorithms, such as those defined in U.S. Patent No. 5,675,707. As a result of the filtering process, in step 3220, all observed phone sequences of the predetermined length are selected. In step 3230, ~~he~~ the salient phone-phrase generator 220 determines whether the desired maximum phrase length has been met. If the desired maximum phrase length has been met, in step 3240, the salient phone-phrase generator 220 selects the phone sequence as a candidate phone-phrase. Conversely, if the desired maximum phrase length has not been met, the process returns to step 3210 to resume filtering the training speech corpus.

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Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on line 26, page 9 of the specification as

follows:

If the task cannot be classified in step 5400 (i.e. a low confidence level

has been generated), in step 5500, a dialog module (located internally or

externally) the task classification process or processor 170 conducts dialog with the

user/customer to obtain clarification of the task objective. After dialog has been

conducted with the user/customer, in step 5600, the task classification processor

170 determines whether the task can now be classified based on the additional

dialog. If the task can be classified, the process proceeds to step 5700 and the

user/customer is routed in accordance with the classified task objective and the

process ends at step 5900. However, if task can still not be classified, in step

5800, the user/customer is routed to a human for assistance and then the

process goes to step 5900 and ends.

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